GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1797
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2007
REGIONAL AIRLINES
Pathak Shri Brajesh

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared the draft policy to provide air services to small and medium cities of the country:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain airlines have refused to provide air services to small cities;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and action taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government is contemplating to issue regional permits to the airlines for a fixed period; and

(f) if so, the number of such permits likely to be issued for small cities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a):- Yes, Sir.

(b):- A Civil Aviation Requirement on the subject is under issue by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

(c)& (d):- No, Sir. Goverment has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieving better coverage of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

(e):- While the policy does not propose a specific time frame, licences are issued by the competent authority for five years at a time.

(f):- The number of permits likely to be issued will depend upon availability of infrastructure, traffic requirements and applications from companies capable of undertaking such operations.